

been in a bad temper only the day before; had I come on it unawares a day earlier I might have been in for trouble.

HONNAMETTI ESTATE,
ATTIKAN P.O.,
via MYSORE (S. INDIA),
December 8, 1953.

R. C. MORRIS

5. THAMIN OR ELD'S DEER [*PANOLIA ELDI THAMIN* (THOMAS)] IN BURMA

There are two Wild Life Sanctuaries primarily constituted to perpetuate Thamin, the typical deer of Burma. The Shwezettaw Wild Life Sanctuary was constituted in 1940. It is situated in the Minbu Forest Division. The approximate area is 213.4 sq. miles. When proposals were submitted in 1937, there were at least 100 Thamin in the area. They were on the increase in 1946-47 and 1947-48. Over 300 Thamin were then reported in the Sanctuary. But since 1948-49, the area has been under occupation by underground Communist insurgents. The Divisional Forest Officer, Minbu, informed me in September 1953 that 'the number is on the decrease and that poaching is still going on during these days of insurrection'.

Kyatthin Wild Life Sanctuary was constituted in 1941. It is situated in the Shwebo Forest Division. The approximate area is 104 sq. miles. Touring is not possible as yet. The Range Officer, Kyatthin, who has been in charge of the range for the past several years estimated the number of thamin in the sanctuary as 150.

Outside the sanctuary thamin still exist in the unclassed forests east of the railway line in the Kanbalu Range, Shurbo Forest Division. According to the Annual Report on Forest Administration for the year 1949-50, thamin are reported from the following Forest Divisions:—

Katha West Forest Divisions.—Unclassed forests in Nam Khan Range.

Meiktila Forest Division.—Sadon, Nagar—Min. Khum, Myothit, Tagundaing, Sathwa and Meiktila Range.

Zigon Forest Division.—Sathwa Reserve. The Divisional Forest Officer, Zigon Forest Division informed, the writer in October 1953, 'thamin are on the increase in Sathwa Reserve, Gamon Range, as no one dare go out into the jungle to shoot game.'

The Deputy Commissioner, Yamethin District, informed the writer in December 1953, 'Thamin exist abundantly in Meiktila District though of course its number is gradually on the decline as it is one of the easiest of game to be shot. Their habitat spreads almost throughout the whole district and even extends into considerable areas of adjoining Kyaukse—Myingyan, Magwe and Yamethin Districts. It is found in good numbers all along the foothills and its sparsely jungled plains on the East of Kyaukse, Meiktila and

Yamethin Districts.' The Deputy Commissioner, Yamethin District was Sub-divisional Officer, Meiktila, before he was posted to Yamethin.

SHAN ROAD,
KEMMENDINE P.O.,
RANGOON (BURMA),
November 26, 1953.

TUN YIN

6. STRIDE OF ELEPHANT CROSSING TRENCH

On page 933, Vol. 50 of the *Journal* I recorded elephants crossing a $5\frac{1}{2}$ -ft. trench. This month an elephant on two successive nights, in a single stride, crossed and re-crossed an 8-ft. V-shaped trench bordering our raghi farm. From the tracks he would appear to have lurched himself over.

HONNAMETTI ESTATE,
ATTIKAN P.O.,
via MYSORE (S. INDIA),
October 29, 1953.

R. C. MORRIS

7. DEATH OF WILD ELEPHANTS, FROM SUSPECTED FOOD-POISONING, IN TRAVANCORE-COCHIN STATE

During October and November last year, there were several deaths among elephants in the Periyar Game Sanctuary area of the State Reserve Forests. Altogether eight elephants died, one on 13-10-1953, two on 10-11-1953, four on 16-11-1953 and one on 19-11-1953. Fearing the outbreak of an epidemic, the Disease Investigation Officer of the State Animal Husbandry Department was deputed to investigate the cause of this mortality. Upon arrival at the scene of death, he found that vultures and other carrion-feeders had already made short work of the carcasses and reduced them to bones and scraps of skin so that he could not secure any material for bacteriological or other examination. However, from the fact that there were no more deaths among elephants in that area after the last death was reported i.e., 19-11-1953 (there has been no further report up to the time of writing) and from the healthy condition of the five survivors of the herd that had sustained this mortality and which he found feeding in the neighbourhood, he ruled out the possibility of infectious diseases such as Anthrax, Rabies and Haemorrhagic Septicaemia. The absence of casualties among domestic cattle grazing in and around the place where two of the elephants had died, as well as the fact that cuts and skin abrasions sustained by the labourers who were assisting at the post mortem of one of the animals healed up normally lent further support to this view. The possibility of insecticides and fertilizers used in the neighbouring tea-gardens as a source of poisoning was also considered, but it was reported that they did not contain enough poison to kill any of the higher animals, much less an